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# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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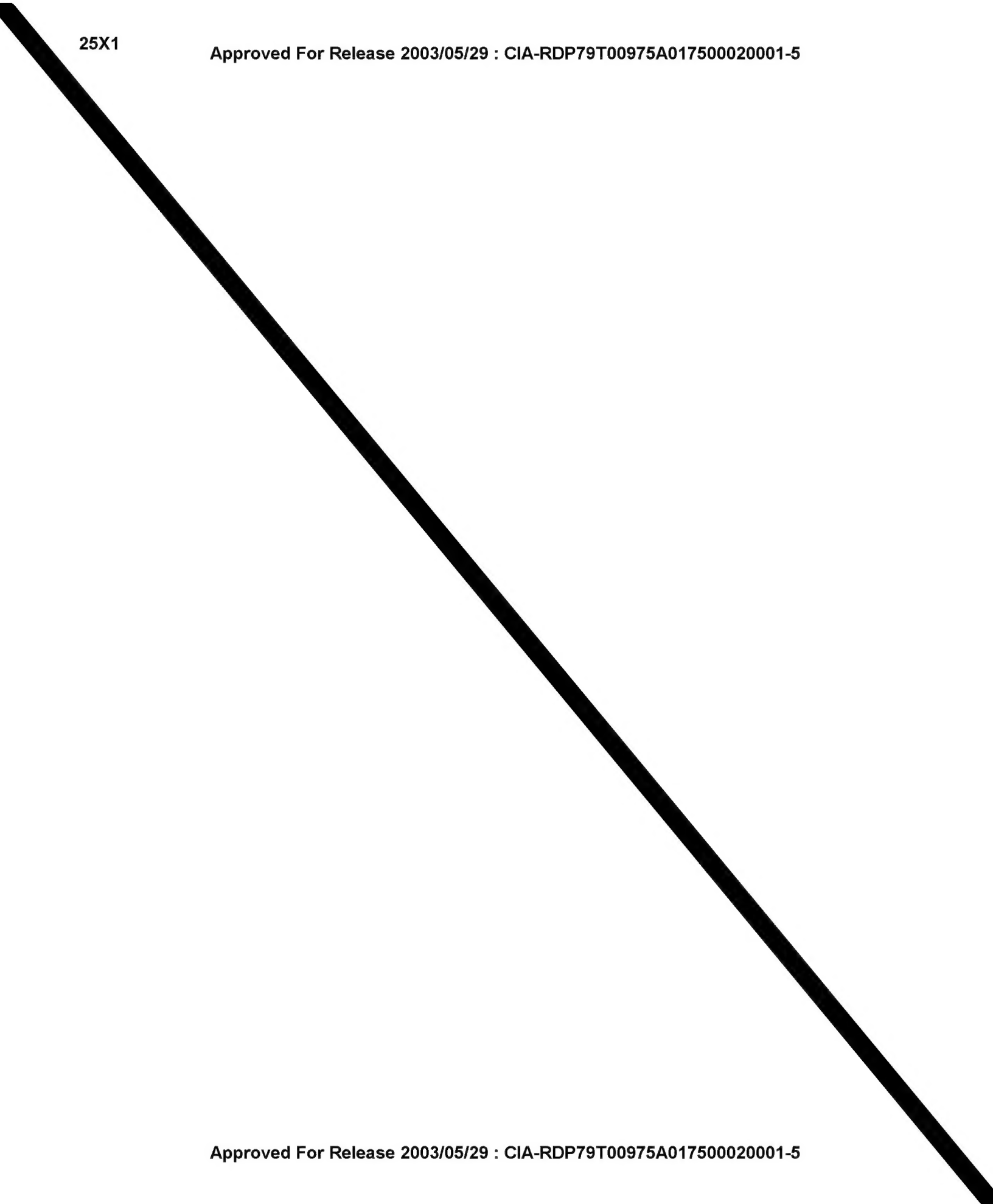

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NORTH VIETNAM: A countrywide drive to bring more men into the armed forces appears to be in full swing.

Since the regime's call this summer for a build-up of the home guard and regular army, regional authorities have met throughout North Vietnam to implement accelerated conscription and recruitment in their localities. Official statements in the press convey a sense of urgency about the mobilization and indicate it is aimed at meeting both immediate and long-range requirements for the war.

One article urged, for instance, that mobilization and recruiting "must be stepped up in every respect in each locality...to constantly assist the front line in human resources." Officials in a populous province near Hanoi promised to "further accelerate" their effort to "promptly meet the demands of the present situation"; they in turn were praised for raising reserves suitable for duty at the front and for the dispatch with which they enlisted youths for the regular army. The articles indicate that many of the new recruits are being sent to reserve and militia units so that they can keep working while being readied for call-up.

There are signs in the press that Hanoi anticipated difficulties in getting local officials and organizations to respond to its manpower levies and took steps early on to secure the fast results the regime clearly wants. It has stressed the need for tight party control and supervision all down the line, to the extent in one province that "key cadres" have been sent to take direct charge in some locales. One regional conference emphasized that "mobilization of human resources for the front line" requires unity and coordination; it called on party leaders to do a better job so that fresh troops are available "for every needy army unit on the battlefield."

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Two ranking party officials have journeyed to the provinces to underscore the high priority Hanoi is giving to mobilization. Defense Minister Giap stressed its "extreme importance and strategic significance" in one province, and fellow politburo member Le Thanh Nghi delivered a similar message in another.

There never has been direct and clear evidence of the current draft and recruitment rate in North Vietnam, but the press items, along with the Communist need for more manpower to fight this year's wider war, suggest the draft is extensive. This is likely to be reflected in a high rate of infiltration in coming months. [redacted] 25X1



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FRANCE: The government believes that it has relieved pressure from the African states on the issue of arms for South Africa by its decision to suspend further sales of helicopters and armored cars to Pretoria.

This decision was conveyed to Zambian President Kaunda on his recent visit to Paris. French officials feel that Kaunda, who was given the red carpet treatment, was genuinely grateful that Paris could give him something he could point to as a success for his mission.

The South African defense minister has pointed out to the annoyance of Paris that the French decision will, in fact, have little effect on the South Africans militarily. The South Africans already produce armored cars, although not helicopters.

France has been and will continue to be a principal supplier of arms to South Africa. French officials have explained to the US that because Paris is concerned over growing Soviet influence in the Indian Ocean, it is not suspending sales of naval ships or fixed-wing aircraft to South Africa. In the past, Paris sought to tone down public criticism of its arms sales to South Africa by distinguishing between the sale of weapons to be used against internal insurgents and those which would aid external defense. France ostensibly refused to sell arms which could be used for "antipersonnel" purposes.

Although the French enjoyed a great deal of leverage by reserving to themselves the right to decide which arms fell into what categories, the bulk of the money involved in arms sales to South Africa did in fact come from arms not intended for counterinsurgency. Since 1954, France has sold South Africa some 250 armored cars, 40 supersonic Mirage fighters, nine Transall transports, 46 utility helicopters, 16 antisubmarine warfare helicopters, three conventional submarines, and a new surface-to-air missile system. 25X1



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AUSTRALIA: The Labor Party's chances of improving its position in the senatorial elections on 21 November show less promise than had earlier seemed likely.

As presently constituted, Labor holds a plurality in the Senate, but the Liberal-Country coalition government is still assured a majority on most issues because of support from the small Democratic Labor Party. The breakdown in the Senate is Labor 28, government 27, Democratic Labor four, and independent one. In accordance with the constitution, only half of the Senate--the less important of the two parliamentary houses--is up for election.

Reforms in the opposition Labor Party, which might have improved its electoral prospects, have now been postponed until next year, and Labor leader Whitlam's opening attack on the government has stirred little popular interest. Should Labor win the three additional votes needed to give it a majority, however, it would probably still try to effect internal reforms before attempting to force early general elections in both parliamentary houses.

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YUGOSLAVIA: Antigovernment student demonstrations at the University of Belgrade may be on the verge of becoming serious.

Striking students of the university's philosophy faculty are now in the 13th day of their protest against the sentencing of a radical student leader to 20 months' imprisonment. He was found guilty on 20 October of spreading "hostile propaganda" about Yugoslavia. Authorities believe his activities included the printing of an illegal newsletter critical of government policies, the organization of antiregime student hunger strikes, and leading the destructive demonstration at the USIS building in Belgrade last May.

Large banners, reminiscent of the June 1968 student riots, have been unfurled at the philosophy building and the number of protestors is estimated to have risen from 300 to 800. A visiting student from Zagreb has expressed support for the strikers in the name of his university, but thus far his words have not been followed by action in the Croatian capital.

The university's 16 other faculties remain in session and students from only two of them appear to have joined in the protest. Local authorities are calm and no attempt has been made to break the strike by force. Apparently, police officials are mindful of the rapid escalation in 1968 of similar demonstrations into riots after they forcibly intervened. [redacted] 25X1



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SOMALIA-USSR: The Soviets have ended their long silence on the subject of economic assistance to the Somali military regime.

The joint communiqué issued at the end of the visit of the Soviet delegation to the Somali regime's first anniversary celebration on 21 October contained an announcement that a Somali delegation will soon leave for trade and aid talks in Moscow. It added that General Siad, president of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, will also visit Moscow at a later date, probably to formalize whatever is agreed upon in the talks.

The Soviets, who have long provided economic aid to Somalia, were clearly pleased by last year's coup, but they apparently were loath to jump in with additional commitments. A Soviet economic fact-finding delegation that toured Somalia throughout December 1969, shortly after the coup, reportedly recommended that the Somalis first reorganize their economy along socialist lines, implying that more Soviet assistance might follow. Since then, however, the Soviets had remained silent.

Siad's recent declaration that Somalia is now a socialist state and his promulgation of socialist-sounding programs probably were intented to prompt a more forthcoming Soviet attitude. The fact that the Soviets are willing to begin talks indicates that Moscow has decided the military government's prospects for survival are good. [redacted] 25X1



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NOTE

LIBYA-UK: The outcome of negotiations now being conducted in London may be crucial for the future course of relations between Libya and the UK. Deputy Premier Jallud arrived on 28 October to discuss the termination of outstanding missile and tank contracts. [redacted] 25X6

[redacted] 25X6

25X6 [redacted] Jallud has said that his government wishes to cooperate with Britain in economic, technical, scientific, and commercial matters, but that this will depend on satisfactory settlement of the contract dispute. [redacted] 25X1



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